



# Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Asa Hutchinson  
José R. Romero, MD, Secretary of Health

## **PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE RULES PERTAINING TO DRIP DISPERSAL SYSTEMS**

**November 12, 2021**

### **BACKGROUND**

Pursuant to Act 402 of 1977 the Department, through the Board of Health, has authority to promulgate the Rules Pertaining to Drip Dispersal Systems. These rules promote health through creating specifications for safe and adequate sewage disposal. The Board of Health voted to move forward with these amendments on July 22, 2021.

### **KEY POINTS**

The proposed rule:

- Updates dispersal Specifications
- Cleans up various language
- Provides for the addition of a rules disclaimer

### **DISCUSSION**

The following additions are being proposed for the Rules Pertaining to Drip Dispersal Systems.:

Add summary of rules disclaimer on page 2

#### **○ IMPORTANT!**

These rules are designed for use with individual residential, small commercial, or decentralized wastewater systems (defined as 10,000 gpd or less) utilizing drip dispersal.

The soil loading rates authorized in this rule shall only be utilized with the water usage tables of Appendix B in Rules and Regulations pertaining to Onsite Wastewater Systems.

When using these rules for subdivision development with a decentralized wastewater treatment and collection system, an estimated water usage rate of no less than 400 gallons per day per lot shall be utilized. Subdivisions utilizing individual onsite wastewater systems are still required to be designed on standard, conventional systems for subdivision review process.

- Add Table 1 DRIP DISPERSAL FIELD SIZING AND LOADING RATE CHART FOR MODERATE HYDRAULIC CONDUCTIVITY SOILS

- Add Table 2 DRIP DISPERSAL FIELD SIZING AND LOADING RATE CHART FOR LOW HYDRAULIC CONDUCTIVITY SOILS

- Add 3.1.2

- o Low hydraulic conductivity shall include soils with 40% or greater clay. Clay percentage shall be determined from in depth zone extending 6” above and 12” below installed drip tubing depth.

- Add 3.1.3

- o No loading rates are available for low hydraulic conductivity soils with greater than 60% clay.

- Add 3.1.4

- o Systems utilizing drip dispersal must maintain minimum of 9” separation between drip tubing and any rock substrata (consolidated or fractured) for soils that exhibit a moderate and/or long SWT.

- Add 3.1.5

- o Systems utilizing drip dispersal must maintain minimum of 15” separation between drip tubing and any rock substrata (consolidated or fractured) for soils that exhibit only a brief SWT or do not exhibit a SWT.

- Replace “Appendix A” with “Appendix B of the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Onsite Wastewater Systems” in 5.3

- Add “or dole type” to 13.1.

- o The flush valve shall be a solenoid or dole type valve.

- Add 20.4

- o Residential systems utilizing drip dispersal designs shall include a minimum of 500 sq. ft. of absorption area per bedroom regardless of SWT depths.

The following deletions are being proposed:

Remove “AND REGULATIONS” from Title

- Remove Section 22 Surface Discharging Drip Systems and renumber Sections 23-27

- Remove Table 1 Drip Dispersal Field Size chart

- Remove Appendix A Quantities of Wastewater Flow for Various Types of Establishments

- Remove original 3.1.1

- o The minimum vertical separation between the drip tubing or installed trench bottom and any rock substrata (consolidated or fractured) shall be nine (9) inches or greater of undisturbed, natural soil.

- Remove original 3.1.2

- o The percent clay of a soil may be interpreted as a Seasonal Water Table Class Clay percentage, as it related to seasonal water table interpretation, is cited in Section 8 of the Onsite Wastewater Regulations

- Remove the phrase “For lots three (3) acres or greater, the use of a surface discharge drip system may be considered. (See Surface Discharge Systems) from original 3.1.4

- Remove Section 7.1

- o Timed dosing is the only method for controlling the dose cycles and volumes.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

ADH recommends that the proposed amendments to the Rules Pertaining to Drip Dispersal Systems be approved.